

D-1211

## Chinese Ratepayers Laud Action Taken To Restore Foreign Concessions

Step Taken By Ministry Of Foreign Affairs To Form  
Special Committees To Delve Into Question  
Receives Support Of Local Body

The appointment of committees by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in preparation for the restoration of foreign concessions was lauded by the Chinese Ratepayers Association in the International Settlement here.

In a telegram addressed to the Ministry, supporting the new organization, the Association expressed its aspiration that the goal will be reached within the shortest possible moment.

The telegram reads:

"We are glad to learn from the newspapers that your Ministry is organizing special committees to effect the retrocession of the various foreign settlements in China.

"With a view to overthrowing Imperialistic invasion, the late Dr. Sun Yat Sen urged us to effect the restoration of our judicial rights, customs rights, and the foreign settlements.

"The judicial rights and customs rights have been partly restored through the strenuous efforts of

your Ministry and they will be completely restored within a short time.

"We should hereafter make great efforts to take over the foreign settlements. As this is a matter of great importance, preparations should be made to carry out the negotiations and to arrange for the disposal of the settlements after their restoration.

"We appreciate the thoughtfulness of your Ministry in organizing special committees and devising ways and means to effect the restoration and we are sure that you will be able to satisfy the people.

"This Association, being an organization of the Chinese ratepayers of the International Settlement, is deep in its aspiration that you will strive to bring about the restoration in accordance with Dr. Sun's instructions within the shortest possible period."

The appointment of the committees was officially announced by

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the afternoon of May 15, at Nanking.

The committee to make arrangements for taking over the British, French and Italian Concession comprises:—Mr. Hsu Mo (Chairman), Dr. F. S. Liu, Dr. Chod Wei, Mr. Wu Nan-ju and Mr. Yu Nenn-mou.

The committee to make arrangement for taking over the International Concession is:—Mr. Frank Lee (Chairman), Dr. F. S. Liu, Mr. Li Chin-lin, Mr. Tang Shao-hua and Shu Yuan.

For taking over Japanese Concessions the committee is Mr. Wang Chia-ting (Chairman), Dr. F. S. Liu, Mr. Victor Hp, Mr. San Wen-chen, and Mr. Hsu Yan-chin.

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# Chinese Ratepayers Make Temperate Reply To Mr. R. G. McDonald's Speech

Association Officially Declares It Stands For Sino-Foreign Co-operation; Questions Raised At Town Hall Meeting Answered

The temperate statement issued by the Shanghai Chinese Ratepayers' Association in reply to Mr. Ronald G. McDonald's speech at the ratepayers' meeting, which we give below, deserves the careful consideration of every foreigner in Shanghai. The Association asserts that it sponsors Sino-foreign co-operation and that Mr. McDonald's speech "tends to divide the population of the Settlement into two distinct and hostile camps" and "strikes at the root of amicable relations between the Chinese and the British which their Governments have laboured to foster." The Association declares that the increase of Chinese representation on the Municipal Council is a matter for official endorsement by the Chinese authorities and the Powers concerned; that the rejection of the resolution at the ratepayers' meeting took place on the spur of the moment "when reasoning was impossible at the height of human emotion"; and that the rejection has only caused embarrassment to all concerned. In conclusion it states that, actuated by a genuine desire for co-operation, it is content to wait for the foreign community's rectification of the mistake. The full statement reads:—

It is indeed regrettable not only to the Chinese but foreigners as well that the resolution introduced by the Municipal Council of the International Settlement of Shanghai to increase Chinese representation was rejected by the foreign ratepayers on April 16, following a lengthy speech delivered by Mr. Ronald G. McDonald in opposition to the increase. It is needless to say that the rejection is a serious blow to the amicable friendship between the Chinese and the foreign communities in Shanghai which has been cherished for years, and it is fraught with the gravest consequences for their future co-operation.

## Desire Co-operation

This Association is rather reluctant to comment on a speech which evidently by ideas long since discarded and in which the whole frame of the argument is built on prejudices. But motivated by a genuine desire to further Sino-foreign co-operation, we deem

it advisable to issue this statement to the public with the expectation that any misunderstandings that might possibly be caused in the foreign community following Mr. McDonald's speech will be dispersed. And at the outset, we have to reiterate our declaration made public a week ago to make explicit our stand:

"The Shanghai Chinese Ratepayers' Association hereby declare that the foreign ratepayers of the International Settlement of Shanghai have no right whatsoever to discuss and decide upon anything affecting the rights and privileges of the Chinese ratepayers of the Settlement, and that the rejection on April 16, 1930, by the foreign ratepayers of the resolution to increase the number of Chinese seats on the Shanghai Municipal Council from three to five is ultra vires and therefore null and void."

## Strikes At Friendship

It is plain to all that the utterances of Mr. McDonald are imbued with emotional appeals rather than logical reasoning and are fruitful of no other result than embarrassment to the foreign community and indignation of the Chinese people. The harangue, however eloquent, would have exerted no perceptible influence in a legislative assembly of a high order, but inasmuch as the meeting of the foreign ratepayers is more or less in the form of a mass meeting and the ratepayers present did not have intimate knowledge of the question at issue, they were carried away by an emotional eloquence and apparently forgot that they were sitting in a hall which was situated in Chinese territory and outside its four walls there was the mass of Chinese people who were the sovereign of the land. This Association further regrets that the move initiated by Mr. McDonald is disastrous in results as it not only tends to divide the population of the Settlement into two distinct and hostile camps, but strikes at the root of amicable relations between the Chinese and the British which their Governments have laboured to foster. It is a matter for sincere regret not only to the British community in Shanghai but to the British authorities as well.

## National Interests

This Association is not in a position to answer the attacks Mr. McDonald directed towards the Municipal Council and the Councillors. But there are a few questions upon which he asks for enlightenment. As regards his contention that the Chinese Members of Council devote their energy to the furtherance of Chinese interests alone, we would like to point out that the Chinese Councillors will naturally stand for the interest of the Chinese community, for if such is not the case, the members of the Municipal Council should be elected irrespective of nationalities on the Council to national groups would be meaningless. Nevertheless it will be readily seen that the Chinese Councillors do not stand for Chinese interests alone and the foreign Councillors for the interests of all, if we only study the estimates of the Council to figure out for ourselves the amount of money appropriated for the welfare of the Chinese residents and that for the welfare of the foreign community. The Municipal Budget bespeaks the differences without reserve.

The May 30 Incident leaves a dark spot in the history of the Settlement, and actuated by a sincere desire for co-operation, the Chinese Councillors exerted whatever influence they possessed to bring the question of compensation grant to an amicable settlement. The Martyrs Cemetery was constructed by the families of the deceased who voluntarily earmarked a portion of the grant totalling

\$20,000 for the purpose, and the balance was met by free contributions from the Chinese public for the memory of those who sacrificed their lives on the altar of justice and humanity. Indeed, to the Chinese people, the Cemetery is yet too small to commemorate this event.

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### Letter To Judge Feetham

As to the letter recently addressed to Judge Feetham by the Federation of the Street Unions, this Association observes that as the letter bespeaks the grievances of the Chinese residents in the Settlement in unequivocal terms, it naturally receives the support of every thinking Chinese and arouses the sympathy of every open-minded foreigner.

If the anti-foreign feeling among the Chinese community as alleged by Mr. MacDonald is in any way true, it is but a barometer with which to measure the degree of mistreatment they receive from the foreign community. The Chinese are a national people, and the calmness with which the Chinese ratepayers face the present acute situation proves to the contrary what the lawyer so vehemently accused them.

### Election Of Chinese Members

Further in his speech, Mr. McDonald inquires into the system followed by this Association in the election of the Chinese Members of Council, the number of qualified Chinese voters, etc. We should point out that the method followed in the election of

the Chinese Councillors and the names and the number of the Chinese voters are published in the vernacular papers prior to formal election every year, and this year the election system was reported in detail in the local foreign Press at the end of March. That Mr. McDonald asks for enlightenment on these matters merely shows that he does not even have a casual knowledge of what is going on in the Chinese community in Shanghai and that his utterances naturally reveal his ignorance of the evolution of the national life of China to-day. He says, he has been staying in Shanghai for eight or nine years, and we wonder what will that help him even if he has been here ten times as long.

### Unpleasant Reminder

That despicable anti-Chinese feeling which is felt throughout the whole of Mr. McDonald's speech is especially noticeable in quoting the mandate of Emperor Chien Lung to King George III of England in 1793, which is entirely irrelevant to the subject of his speech. The quotation is for no other purpose than to instill the same despicable anti-Chinese feeling in his audience. Here we recall the lawyer's wanton resort to history to support his stand by quoting several passages from a speech of an early-Victorian writer in praise of British imperialistic glory. Such quotations may have the effect of reminding the aggrieved nations of the crime of maintenance of imperialism which the Powers are making every conceivable effort to correct. They are lamentably incompatible with the statement of the British Government in 1927, which was meant to restore the goodwill of the Chinese people and are obviously damaging to the commercial edifice which has taken British traders years and years to build up in China.

In his concluding paragraphs,

Mr. McDonald brings up five points for the consideration of his audience, and these we shall refute in the order named.

1.—It cannot be overlooked that the Chinese residents constitute 96 per cent. of the population in the settlement and their contributions towards the maintenance of the Municipality amount to more than 55 per cent. of the total Municipal revenue. Mr. McDonald's emphasis that the Council is described in the regulations as "Council for the Foreign Community of Shanghai" merely gives rise to the extreme Chinese view that the Chinese residents should form an independent Municipal Council for themselves.

2.—If the Chinese residents who are under obligation to pay taxes are entitled to the right of representation on an equal basis with foreign ratepayers that will afford ample justification even for

the Chinese claim of 11 seats on the Council, not to speak of the proposed addition of two members to the existing three. The increase of Chinese representation will have the effect of furthering Sino-foreign co-operation in the interest of both the Chinese and the foreign communities and minimizing their differences arising from racial, linguistic and psychological dissimilarities. The benefits wrought by the Chinese participation in the Municipal Administration during the past two years are recognized in all responsible circles.

3.—The proposed increase of Chinese representation to fulfil a promise made as early as 1928 has nothing to do with the expected report of Mr. Justice Feetham, and still less with any proposal for a constitution for a Greater Shanghai which Mr. McDonald expects to be put forward by some responsible body. For what the report of Mr. Feetham will appear to be, we suppose, is still unknown to the Judge himself at this stage of his investigation, and the so-called concrete proposal for a Greater Shanghai is nothing more than a castle in the air. Furthermore, the Judge has through the Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council voiced his approval of the resolution the adoption of which he considers to be in the general interest.

4.—To call the passage of the resolution in question "fawning sycophancy" is ridiculous. Has not Mr. McDonald noticed that the number of seats on the Municipal Council of the British Concession at Tientsin is equally divided among the Chinese and the foreign communities? And how shall he style this action of the British ratepayers in that port?

5.—As to Mr. MacDonald's ap-

prehension that the increase of Chinese representation may lead to the complete Chinese control of the Administration, we have reason to believe that no sane foreigner ever entertains the hope of maintaining the status quo in Shanghai perpetually. That a change of the status of Shanghai is impending is fully appreciated by the Council as well as the foreign community in their engagement of Mr. Justice Feetham as expert advisor. What concerns the responsible elements in the settlement is how to effect the change with as little dislocation of local foreign interests as possible.

### Defines Attitude

This Association avails itself of this opportunity to define to the public its attitude towards this unhappy event:

1.—This Association always sponsors the noble cause of Sino-foreign co-operation.

2.—The increase of Chinese representation on the Council is a matter for official endorsement by the Chinese authorities and the Powers concerned.

3.—The rejection of the resolution came on the spur of the moment when reasoning was impossible at the height of human emotion, thereby revealing the shortcomings of the present ratepayers' meeting.

4.—The rejection simply causes embarrassment to the foreign community and their respective Governments, and this Association actuated by a genuine desire for co-operation is content to wait for the foreign community's rectification of their past error and to render them assistance only in so far as is within legal and moral bounds.

SHANGHAI CHINESE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION.